

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELIZE 00431 190136Z

70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMCONSUL BELIZE

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

SECSTATE WASHDC 4957

US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 0105

UMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 1350

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELIZE 0431

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINS MOPS CU XA

SUBJECT: CUBAN OR MERCENARY SUPPORT FOR BELIZEAN INDEPENDENCE

REF: GUATEMALA 3529

1. IN PUBLISHED INTERVIEW WITH BELIZE TIMES
REPORTER, ATTORNEY GENERAL ASSAD SHOMAN DENIED RECENT
PRESS REPORTS WHICH HAD QUOTED HIM AS HAVING EXPRESSED
GOB'S AMENABILITY TO ACCEPTING HELP SPECIFICALLY FROM
MERCENARIES OR FROM CUBA IN DEFENDING BELIZE AGAINST
GUATEMALA.

2. COMMENTING ON MIAMI HERALD ARTICLE, SHOMAN SAID:

"THE MIAMI HERALD TENDS TO PUBLISH MATERIAL MORE
FAVOURABLE TO GUATEMALA THAN TO BELIZE, AND IT IS
A SENSATIONALIST PAPER. I WAS ASKED ABOUT CUBA BY
THE EXCELSIOR REPORTER, AND I REPLIED THAT WE HAD
ABSOLUTELY NO UNDERSTANDING WITH CUBA AT ALL ON ANY
SUCH MATTER. I ALSO TOLD THE REPORTER THAT OUR FIRST
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CONCERN WAS FOR SURVIVAL, THAT THE MOST ELEMENTARY

REACTION OF ANY HUMAN BEING, OR OF ANY COUNTRY WAS FOR SELF PRESERVATION. A MAN IN DANGER OF DEATH WILL ACCEPT HELP FROM ANY QUARTER. LIKEWISE A COUNTRY IN DANGER OF EXTINCTION WILL ACCEPT WHAT HELP IT CAN GET. I AM SURE THAT THE MAJORITY OF BELIZEANS WILL AGREE THAT IF WE ARE IN IMMINENT DANGER OF AN ATTACK BY GUATEMALA, IF WE ARE ABOUT TO BE INVADED AND CRUSHED BY THE GUATEMALAN MILITARY, THEN WE CANNOT AFFORD TO REFUSE HELP FROM ANYWHERE."

3. SHOMAN ALSO TOLD BELIZE TIMES REPORTER THAT AFTER RECENT TALKS IN NEW ORLEANS HE HAD GONE TO NEW YORK FOR MEETINGS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAD SUPPORTED BELIZE RESOLUTION LAST FALL, HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED A MEETING HE HAD HAD WITH DUDLEY THOMPSON, JAMAICAN MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

4. COMMENT: ABOVE SHOULD BE READ AS NOT NECESSARILY WHAT SHOMAN ACTUALLY TOLD EXCELSIOR REPORTER BUT MORE LIKELY WHAT PRICE, SHOMAN AND ROGERS, AFTER SOME REFLECTION, DECIDED THEY WANTED THE RECORD TO INDICATE HE HAD SAID.
GAWF

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